

PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

(11)Publication number : 2000-346799

(43)Date of publication of application : 15.12.2000

(51)Int.CI. G01N 21/31
G01N 1/28

(21)Application number : 11-156038

(71)Applicant : HITACHI LTD
HITACHI SCI SYST LTD

(22)Date of filing : 03.06.1999

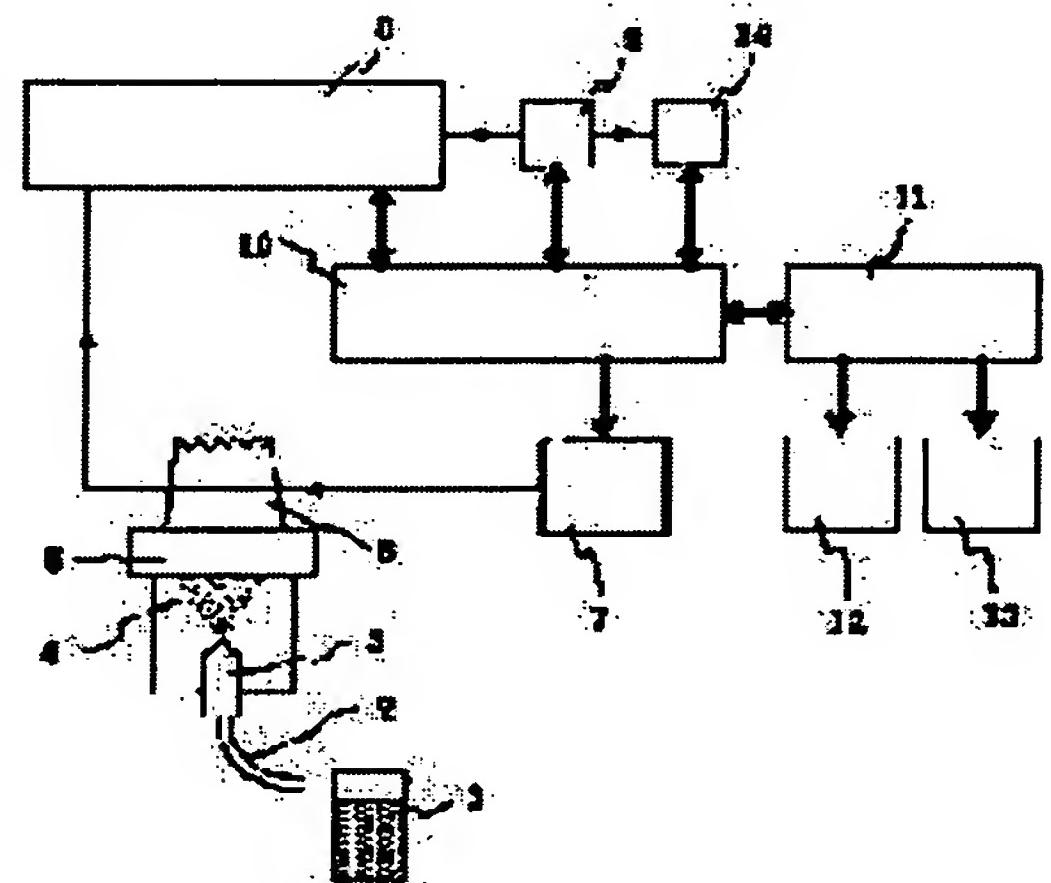
(72)Inventor : TOBE HAYATO
TERUI YASUSHI
SAITO TAKAHIRO

(54) FRAME ATOM LIGHT ABSORPTION PHOTOMETER AND ITS CONTROL METHOD

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To easily improve analysis accuracy by automatically determining execution timing for starting measurement from the amount of increase of absorbance and stability.

SOLUTION: An analyzer moves a sample 1 in a sample container to a sample- introducing pipe 2 for continuous sucking, and the sample 1 is atomized by an atomizer 3 and is mixed with internal combustion gas and combustion-supporting gas in a chamber 4 before being introduced to a burner 5. The sample 1 is heated by the burner 5 and is atomized in a frame 6. Measurement light from a light source 7 is applied to the atom steam of the atomized sample 1, measurement light absorbed by the atom steam enters a spectroscope 8, and only light with wavelength to be measured is guided to a detector 9. The detector 9 converts light intensity to an electrical signal and outputs the electrical signal to a central processing unit 10 as a digital signal via an A/D converter 14, and the central processing unit 10 calculates absorbance from the digital signal and displays it on a display part 12 via an operation part 11 for monitoring continuously. A sound source 13 outputs a sound according to the instruction of the central processing device 10 for reporting to the analyzer about measurement conditions.



BEST AVAILABLE COPY

LEGAL STATUS

[Date of request for examination] 29.05.2002
[Date of sending the examiner's decision of rejection]
[Kind of final disposal of application other than the examiner's decision of rejection or application converted registration]
[Date of final disposal for application]
[Patent number] 3593470
[Date of registration] 03.09.2004
[Number of appeal against examiner's decision of rejection]
[Date of requesting appeal against examiner's decision of rejection]
[Date of extinction of right]

Copyright (C); 1998,2003 Japan Patent Office

*** NOTICES ***

JPO and NCIPPI are not responsible for any damages caused by the use of this translation.

1. This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.
2. **** shows the word which can not be translated.
3. In the drawings, any words are not translated.

CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] The sample installation means which attracts a test portion and is changed into a misty condition, and the heating means which atomizes by heating the introduced sample, the spectrum which carries out the spectrum of the above-mentioned measuring beam to a luminescence means to irradiate a measuring beam to the sample which atomized, for every wavelength of arbitration -- with a means the spectrum concerned -- with a detection means to perform luminous-intensity detection about the wavelength by which the spectrum was carried out with the means In the control approach of a frame atomic absorption spectro-photometer of having a conversion means to change into an absorbance from the luminous intensity detected by the detection means concerned, and a display means to perform the changed display concerned of an absorbance The absorbance of the step to which a component measures a known sample, and a test portion is computed. The control approach of the frame atomic absorption spectro-photometer characterized by having the step which records the absorbance measured when the result of the judgment of a step and the above-mentioned stability which judges stability of the computed absorbance concerned was stable.

[Claim 2] The sample installation means which attracts a measuring object sample and is changed into a misty condition, and the heating means which atomizes by heating the introduced sample, the spectrum which carries out the spectrum of the above-mentioned measuring beam to a luminescence means to irradiate a measuring beam to the sample which atomized, for every wavelength of arbitration -- with a means the spectrum concerned -- with a detection means to perform luminous-intensity detection about the wavelength by which the spectrum was carried out with the means In the control approach of a frame atomic absorption spectro-photometer of having a conversion means to change into an absorbance from the luminous intensity detected by the detection means concerned, and a display means to perform the changed display concerned of an absorbance The absorbance obtained by the above-mentioned conversion means is measured with the 1st value set up beforehand. By performing the comparison with the 2nd value beforehand set up based on the value of the absorbance obtained at the period of the 1st step and arbitration which detects that measurement of said measuring object sample was indicated The control approach of the frame atomic absorption spectro-photometer characterized by having the 4th step which ends record of an absorbance after the 3rd step which starts record of an absorbance, and predetermined time amount progress when the stability of the 2nd step and the above-mentioned absorbance which judges the stability of an absorbance is checked.

[Claim 3] The control approach of the frame atomic absorption spectro-photometer characterized by emitting a sound at the time of the recording start of an absorbance, and record termination of an absorbance in said claim 2.

[Claim 4] The control approach of the frame atomic absorption spectro-photometer characterized by changing said 2nd value in said 2nd step in said claim 2 according to the maximum absorbance in the period of arbitration.

[Claim 5] The control approach of the frame atomic absorption spectro-photometer characterized by having the 5th step which judges that installation of said measuring object sample was completed by

performing the comparison with the 3rd value set up beforehand based on the absorbance measured after said 4th step in said claim 2.

[Claim 6] The control approach of the frame atomic absorption spectro-photometer characterized by considering measurement as termination when the 4th value to which the elapsed time from data incorporation start time was beforehand set even when not judged with measurement termination at said 5th step is exceeded in said claim 5.

[Claim 7] The sample installation means which attracts a test portion and is changed into a misty condition, and the heating means which atomizes by heating the introduced sample, the spectrum which carries out the spectrum of the above-mentioned measuring beam to a luminescence means to irradiate a measuring beam to the sample which atomized, for every wavelength of arbitration -- with a means the spectrum concerned -- with a detection means to perform luminous-intensity detection about the wavelength by which the spectrum was carried out with the means In the frame atomic absorption spectro-photometer which has an operation means to change into an absorbance from the luminous intensity detected by the detection means concerned, and a display means to perform the changed display concerned of an absorbance The 1st judgment means which measures the detection decision value beforehand set up into the above-mentioned operation means, and the above-mentioned absorbance, The frame atomic absorption spectro-photometer characterized by having the 2nd judgment means which judges stability about the absorbance of the period of arbitration based on the stability decision value set up beforehand, and determining the tide of data incorporation initiation of a measurement result according to the judgment result of the comparison test means of the above 2nd.

[Claim 8] The sample installation means which attracts a test portion and is changed into a misty condition, and the heating means which atomizes by heating the introduced sample, the spectrum which carries out the spectrum of the above-mentioned measuring beam to a luminescence means to irradiate a measuring beam to the sample which atomized, for every wavelength of arbitration -- with a means the spectrum concerned -- with a detection means to perform luminous-intensity detection about the wavelength by which the spectrum was carried out with the means In the frame atomic absorption spectro-photometer which has an operation means to change into an absorbance from the luminous intensity detected by the detection means concerned, and a display means to perform the changed display concerned of an absorbance The 1st judgment means which measures the detection decision value beforehand set up in the above-mentioned operation means, and the above-mentioned absorbance, The 2nd judgment means which judges stability about the absorbance of the period of arbitration based on the stability decision value set up beforehand, It has the 3rd judgment means which compares the measurement period and the data incorporation time amount of an absorbance which were set up beforehand. The frame atomic absorption spectro-photometer characterized by determining the tide of data incorporation initiation of the measurement result of a sample, and the tide of data incorporation termination according to the judgment result of the above 2nd and the 3rd judgment means.

[Claim 9] The frame atomic absorption spectro-photometer characterized by having the sound source which outputs a sound at the time of data incorporation initiation and data incorporation termination in said claim 8.

[Claim 10] The frame atomic absorption spectro-photometer which is equipped with the 4th judgment means which measures the sample installation termination decision value beforehand set up in said operation means, and said absorbance in said claim 9, and will be characterized by the thing with measurement termination for which a sound is emitted from said sound source if judged.

[Claim 11] The frame atomic absorption spectro-photometer characterized by stopping suction of said test portion when it has the 5th judgment means which compares the time-out time amount and the elapsed time from data incorporation initiation which were beforehand set up in said operation means in said claim 10 and the elapsed time concerned exceeds said time-out time amount.

[Translation done.]

*** NOTICES ***

JPO and NCIPPI are not responsible for any damages caused by the use of this translation.

1. This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.
2. **** shows the word which can not be translated.
3. In the drawings, any words are not translated.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]**[0001]**

[Field of the Invention] This invention makes a sample heat and atomize and relates to the atomic absorption spectro-photometer which analyzes a metallic element by carrying out absorption spectrometry of the atom.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] The main structures of a frame atomic absorption spectro-photometer of having a burner are shown in drawing 1. In case it analyzes, even the sample installation tubing 2 moves the sample 1 paid to the specimen container, and analyst makes a sample 1 attract first in a frame atomic absorption spectro-photometer. A sample 1 is continuously attracted from the sample installation tubing 2 (about 5 ml/min), it will be in a misty condition with a sprayer 3, and is mixed with inflammable gas and assistant ** gas within a chamber 4, and the attracted sample 1 is introduced into a burner 5. The sample 1 of the introduced misty condition is heated by the burner 5, and is atomized in a frame 6. The measuring beam from the light source 7 is irradiated at the atomic steam of the atomized sample 1, the measuring beam absorbed by the atomic steam goes into a spectroscope 8, and only the light of the wavelength to measure is led to a detector 9. In a detector 9, luminous intensity is changed into an electrical signal and it outputs to A-D converter 14. A-D converter 14 is outputted to a central processing unit 10 by making into a digital signal the electrical signal acquired from the detector 9. In a central processing unit 10, an absorbance is computed from a digital signal. The computed absorbance is outputted to a control unit 11, and is displayed on a display 12.

[0003] In a frame atomic absorption spectro-photometer, although measurement of the sample attracted as mentioned above is performed, in case a measurement result is memorized in the storage section (not shown), all measurement results are not made to memorize but only the place for which it was suitable as a measurement result is memorized. Therefore, the writing of the data to the storage section is started by operating the manual operation button with which analyst performs data acquisition initiation by the control unit 11. Data acquisition serves as data acquisition completion, after the time amount deed set up beforehand and this time amount passing. When data acquisition is completed, analyst removes a specimen container from the sample installation tubing 2, and even the sample installation tubing 2 moves and he makes the sample paid to the specimen container measured next attract.

[0004]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] However, time amount after introducing a sample 1 until the signal of an absorbance is acquired (namely, time amount until a sample 1 passes the sample installation tubing 2, a sprayer 3, a chamber 4, and a burner 5 and results in atomization), In order that time amount until it changes so that the attracted sample may be stabilized and may be attracted, and an absorbance comes to be stabilized according to it may require for 2 seconds to 5 seconds, analyst After checking that the absorbance displayed on the display 12 was stabilized, what data acquisition initiation is performed, or the latency time is established beforehand, and starts data acquisition was performed.

[0005] Since the execution-time machine of the data acquisition initiation which the above-mentioned

analyst performs judged the tide considered to be the optimal, checking an absorbance display for every test portion, it was a problem that time amount is taken upwards and data acquisition cannot necessarily be started by the optimal tide according to individual difference.

[0006] Furthermore, since analyst checked the absorbance display and was performing data acquisition initiation actuation on a control unit by another hand, holding a specimen container by hand of one of the two in order to make a sample attract, he had the problem that there were no allowances in measurement actuation.

[0007] The purpose of this invention determines automatically the execution-time machine of the above-mentioned measurement initiation from the augend of an absorbance, and the stability of an absorbance, and is to offer [simple and] the atomic absorption spectro-photometer which can improve analysis precision.

[0008]

[Means for Solving the Problem] The sample installation means which the description of this invention for attaining the above-mentioned purpose attracts a test portion, and is changed into a misty condition, The heating means which atomizes by heating the introduced sample, and a luminescence means to irradiate a measuring beam to the sample which atomized, the spectrum which carries out the spectrum of the above-mentioned measuring beam for every wavelength of arbitration -- a means and the spectrum concerned -- with a detection means to perform luminous-intensity detection about the wavelength by which the spectrum was carried out with the means In the control approach of a frame atomic absorption spectro-photometer of having a conversion means to change into an absorbance from the luminous intensity detected by the detection means concerned, and a display means to perform the changed display concerned of an absorbance It is having the step which records the absorbance measured when the result of the judgment of a step and the above-mentioned stability which computes the absorbance of the step to which a component's measures a known sample, and a test portion, and judges stability of the computed absorbance concerned was stable.

[0009] Moreover, the sample installation means which attracts a test portion and is changed into a misty condition and the heating means which atomizes by heating the introduced sample, the spectrum which carries out the spectrum of the above-mentioned measuring beam to a luminescence means to irradiate a measuring beam to the sample which atomized, for every wavelength of arbitration -- with a means the spectrum concerned -- with a detection means to perform luminous-intensity detection about the wavelength by which the spectrum was carried out with the means In the control approach of a frame atomic absorption spectro-photometer of having a conversion means to change into an absorbance from the luminous intensity detected by the detection means concerned, and a display means to perform the changed display concerned of an absorbance By comparing with the 2nd value set up beforehand using the value of the absorbance of the period of the 1st step and arbitration which detect sample installation as compared with the 1st value beforehand set up in the absorbance obtained by the above-mentioned conversion means When the stability of the 2nd step and the above-mentioned absorbance which judges the stability of an absorbance is checked, it is having the 4th step which ends record of an absorbance after the 3rd step which starts record of an absorbance, and predetermined time amount progress.

[0010] Furthermore, the sample installation means which attracts a test portion and is changed into a misty condition and the heating means which atomizes by heating the introduced sample, the spectrum which carries out the spectrum of the above-mentioned measuring beam to a luminescence means to irradiate a measuring beam to the sample which atomized, for every wavelength of arbitration -- with a means the spectrum concerned -- with a detection means to perform luminous-intensity detection about the wavelength by which the spectrum was carried out with the means In the frame atomic absorption spectro-photometer which has an operation means to change into an absorbance from the luminous intensity detected by the detection means concerned, and a display means to perform the changed display concerned of an absorbance The 1st judgment means which measures the detection decision value beforehand set up in the above-mentioned operation means, and the above-mentioned absorbance, The 2nd judgment means which judges stability about the absorbance of the period of arbitration based on the stability decision value set up beforehand, It is having the 3rd judgment means which compares

the measurement period and the data incorporation time amount of an absorbance which were set up beforehand, and determining the tide of data incorporation initiation of the measurement result of a sample, and the tide of data incorporation termination according to the judgment result of the above 2nd and the 3rd judgment means.

[0011] Since the execution-time machine of measurement initiation is automatically determined after detecting a sample and judging the stability of an absorbance value with the above-mentioned means in this invention, an execution-time machine can be made the optimal. This becomes possible simple to improve analysis precision.

[0012]

[Embodiment of the Invention] Hereafter, the operation gestalt of this invention is explained using a drawing.

[0013] The main configurations of the frame atomic absorption spectro-photometer in this invention are not different from drawing 1 mentioned above. That is, it will be in a misty condition with a sprayer 3, and is mixed by inflammable gas and assistant ** gas within a chamber 4, and the sample 1 which even the sample installation tubing 2 moved the sample 1 paid to the specimen container, and analyst made attract a sample 1 continuously, and was attracted is introduced into a burner 5. The sample 1 of the introduced misty condition is heated with a burner 5, and is atomized in a frame 6. The measuring beam from the light source 7 is irradiated at the atomic steam of the atomized sample 1, the measuring beam absorbed by the atomic steam goes into a spectroscope 8, and only the light of the wavelength to measure is led to a detector 9. In a detector 8, luminous intensity is changed into an electrical signal and it outputs to A/D converter 14, and A/D converter 14 is outputted to a central processing unit 10 by making an electrical signal into a digital signal, with a central processing unit 10, it computes an absorbance from a digital signal, is outputted to a control unit 11, is displayed on a display 12, and is supervised continuously. A sound source 13 makes a sound output with the instruction of a central processing unit 10, and tells analyst a measurement situation.

[0014] In case measurement is started, it is necessary to compute a required parameter to it by measuring the sample used as criteria, for example, purified water, to the beginning, and obtaining blank data to it. In measurement of purified water, from a measurement result, a central processing unit 10 computes an average absorbance value [a noise height value] and the absorbance value [a noise width-of-face value] which subtracted the minimum absorbance value from the maximum absorbance value as blank data, and memorizes it.

[0015] The flow chart of the concrete example of measurement at this time is shown in drawing 3. First, the absorbance value which subtracted [the absorbance value] the minimum absorbance value for the average of 50 data picking and this data from the noise height value and the maximum absorbance value continuously every 20ms is memorized as a noise width-of-face value. Next, it moves to measurement actuation of the sample of the measuring object.

[0016] In case a sample 1 is measured, a sample 1 is first introduced from the sample installation tubing 2.

[0017] After introducing a sample 1, in order to take time amount to stabilize time amount until it passes the sample installation tubing 2, a sprayer 3, a chamber 3, and a burner 5 and results in atomization, and the sample installation flow rate to a sprayer 3 at this time, after an absorbance introduces a sample, it increases gradually, and has the inclination to be in a stable state before and behind a predetermined absorbance for a while behind. The result of having measured the sample 1 to drawing 2 is shown. Incidentally, drawing 2 is the screen displayed on the display 12.

[0018] Therefore, in this invention, a central processing unit 10 supervises the absorbance at this time continuously, and judgment processing as shown in drawing 4 is performed. In addition, although two or more decision values are used for judgment processing shown in drawing 4, analyst sets up each decision value beforehand. The initial value of a decision value and an example of a judgment setting range are shown in Table 1.

[0019]

[Table 1]

表 1

記号	判 定 値 項 目	初期設定値	設 定 可 能 範 囲
A	検出判定値	0.003abs	0.0001 - 4.0abs
B 1	安定性判定値 (0.5abs≤吸光度)の場合に適用	5%	0.1 - 50%
B 2	安定性判定値 (0.1abs≤吸光度<0.5abs)の場合に適用	10%	0.1 - 50%
B 3	安定性判定値 (0.01abs≤吸光度<0.1abs)の場合に適用	20%	0.1 - 50%
B 4	安定性判定値 (吸光度<0.01abs)の場合に適用	40%	0.1 - 100%
C 1	データ取り込み開始待ち時間 (0.01abs≤吸光度)の場合に適用	2秒	0 - 100秒
C 2	データ取り込み開始待ち時間 (吸光度<0.01abs)の場合に適用	3秒	0 - 100秒
D	試料導入終了判定値	0.002abs	0.0001 - 4.0abs
E	測定タイムアウト時間	20秒	0 - 100秒

[0020] Hereafter, actuation of judgment processing of drawing 4 is explained.

[0021] First, after introducing a sample, in order to perform the judgment of sample detection, a detection absorbance value is computed. A detection absorbance value is a value (= [current absorbance value]-[noise height value]) which reduced the noise height value acquired when the above-mentioned purified water was measured from the current absorbance value detected in the detector 9. And it compares with the "detection decision value A" which shows the computed detection absorbance value in Table 1. With [a detection absorbance value] A [under], it judges that detection of a sample is not performed, and stands by for 100ms, and same processing is still performed again. In detection absorbance value >=A, it progresses at the next absorbance stability judging processing. In addition, detection sensitivity can be freely adjusted by changing a setup of the value of the detection decision value A.

[0022] In absorbance stability judging processing, in order to judge absorbance stability, the formula of {[maximum absorbance value for 120ms]-[minimum absorbance value for 120ms]-[noise width-of-face value]} / [maximum absorbance value for 120ms] x100 is performed based on the absorbance detection result of the period (here, it may be 120ms) of arbitration. And this calculation result and the "stability decision value B" are compared.

[0023] Here, the stability decision value B which should be compared is changed with the magnitude of the maximum absorbance value for the 120 above-mentionedms. That is, in the case of the 0.5abs<= maximum absorbance, the judgment of "absorbance stability <=B1", and in 0.1abs<= maximum

absorbance <0.5abs, the judgment of "absorbance stability <=B4" is performed [the judgment of "absorbance stability <=B-2", and in 0.01abs<= maximum absorbance <0.1abs] the judgment of "absorbance stability <=B3", and in maximum absorbance <0.01abs. Usually, in the initial value of a decision value B, it is set as such a low value that the maximum absorbance is high, and it changes so that strict stability may be evaluated. When a judgment here cannot be filled, it stands by for 100ms and returns to the first processing. When conditions are satisfied, it progresses to initiation latency-time processing of measurement.

[0024] Since it corresponds to the very small increment in an absorbance, the measurement initiation latency time is time amount added as stable time amount, and it is changed with the magnitude of the maximum absorbance value. 0. In the case of the 01abs<= maximum absorbance, perform initiation of data incorporation automatically after latency-time progress, using the measurement initiation latency time as C2 for the measurement initiation latency time in C1 and maximum absorbance <0.01abs.

[0025] Moreover, synchronizing with this activation, from a sound source 13, a sound is outputted and analyst is told about the initiation tide. Data incorporation time amount ends incorporation of measurement data immediately after incorporation time amount progress according to the incorporation time amount which analyst has set up beforehand. Moreover, synchronizing with this termination, from a sound source 13, a sound is outputted and analyst is told about the termination tide. At this time, analyst stops installation of a sample 1. That is, a specimen container is separated from two between sample installation.

[0026] Then, sample installation termination judging processing is performed. By sample installation termination judging processing, in order to judge that installation of a sample was completed, a non-detected absorbance value (= [current absorbance value]-[noise height value]) is computed, and it compares with the sample installation termination decision value D. With [the computed non-detected absorbance value] D [more than], it is judged as that to which the sample is still supplied, and moves to time-out judging processing after time amount (for example, 100ms) standby of arbitration. In the case of non-detected absorbance value >=D, completion of measurement is performed automatically, and it is made to make it into the preparatory state of the following test portion. Moreover, synchronizing with this activation, from a sound source 13, a sound is outputted and analyst is told about the completion tide.

[0027] Time-out judging processing compares with the measurement time-out time amount E by making elapsed time from data incorporation initiation into a calculation value. The measurement time-out time amount E is a value set up in order to protect a device, and since it shifts to the next measurement quickly. When elapsed time is under the measurement time-out time amount E, it returns to sample installation termination judging processing. Usually, since the data incorporation time amount which analyst sets up is set up by time amount shorter than the measurement time-out time amount E, in this judgment step, it is almost the case to move to an end-of-measurement step as it is. However, in spite of having completed data incorporation, in not stopping installation of a sample 1 from analyst's mistake, the absorbance measured does not fall, and sample installation termination judging processing is not completed forever, but it turns to the ability not to move to the next measurement. Therefore, when set to elapsed time >=E from data incorporation initiation, suction of a sample is ended compulsorily (specifically, the pump for suction is suspended.), it considers as the end of measurement, a sound is outputted to coincidence from a sound source 13, and analyst is told about the completion tide. Then, it is made to consider as the preparatory state of the following test portion.

[0028]

[Effect of the Invention] By this invention, since the execution-time machine of measurement initiation can be optimized and data incorporation can be automatically started when an absorbance will be in a stable state, it is not based on analyst's level of skill, but analysis precision improves. Moreover, since the useless latency time is lost, the consumption of the sample used for compaction and analysis of analysis time amount can be saved. Furthermore, since it is not necessary to check a display and since an analysis situation is transmitted to a sound, and it is not necessary to operate measurement initiation during sample installation, the frame atomic absorption spectro-photometer which is not restrained for

measurement of hand of one of the two, but can do measurement comfortably can be offered. [0029] Moreover, since suction of a sample will stop compulsorily if fixed time amount progress is carried out at the time of measurement termination, it can prevent consuming many samples beyond the need.

[Translation done.]

*** NOTICES ***

JPO and NCIPPI are not responsible for any damages caused by the use of this translation.

1. This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.
2. **** shows the word which can not be translated.
3. In the drawings, any words are not translated.

DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] It is the conceptual diagram of a frame atomic absorption spectro-photometer.

[Drawing 2] It is an example of the monitoring screen which shows the absorbance change from installation of a sample to the end of measurement on real time.

[Drawing 3] It is the flow chart of the blank data acquisition by this invention.

[Drawing 4] It is the judgment processing flow chart of the automatic measure by this invention.

[Description of Notations]

1 [-- A chamber, 5 / -- A burner, 6 / -- A frame, 7 / -- The light source, 8 / -- A spectroscope, 9 / -- A detector, 10 / -- A central processing unit, 11 / -- A control unit, 12 / -- A display, 13 / -- A sound source, 14 / -- A/D converter.] -- A sample, 2 -- Sample installation tubing, 3 -- A sprayer, 4

[Translation done.]

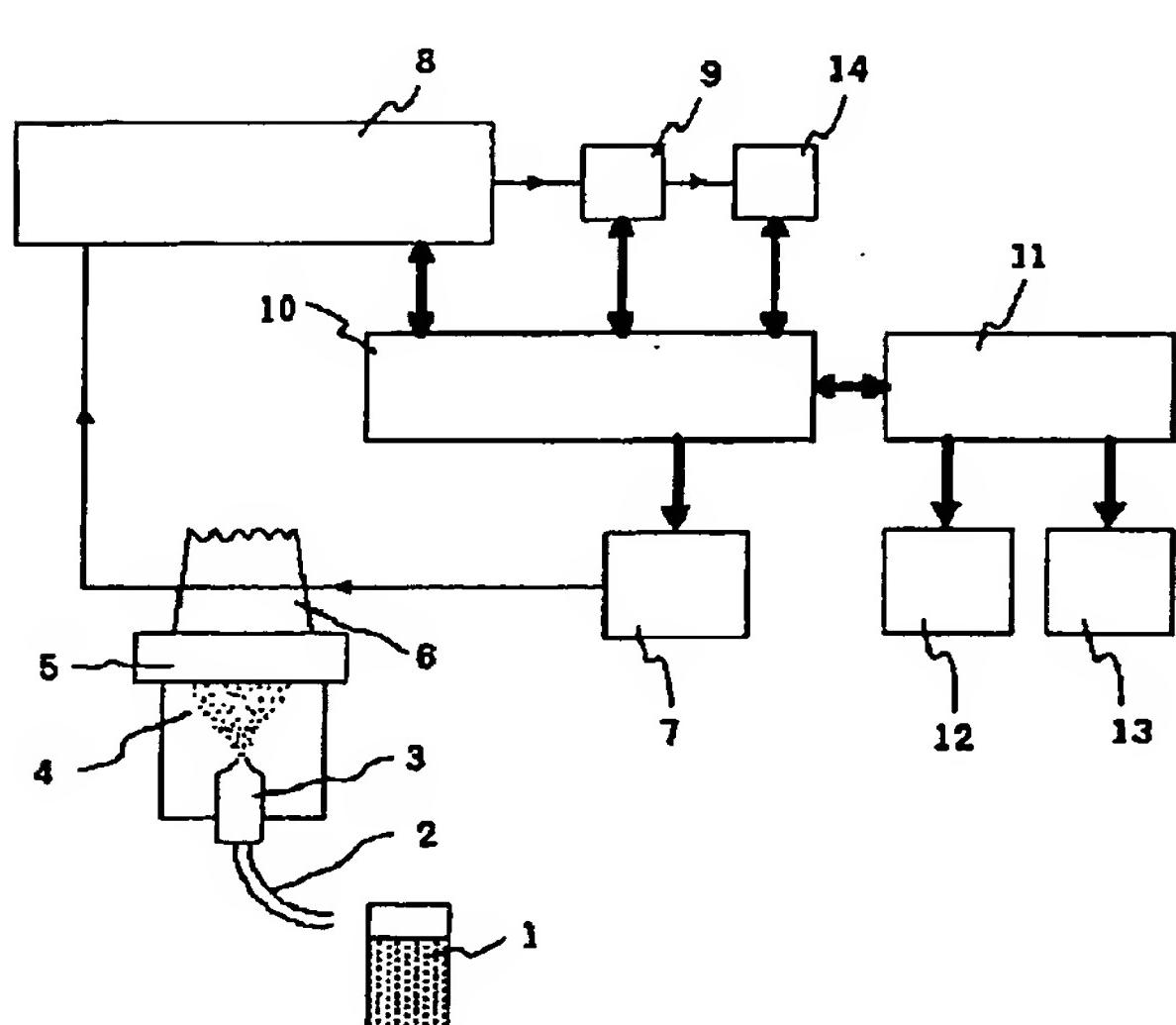
* NOTICES *

JPO and NCIPPI are not responsible for any damages caused by the use of this translation.

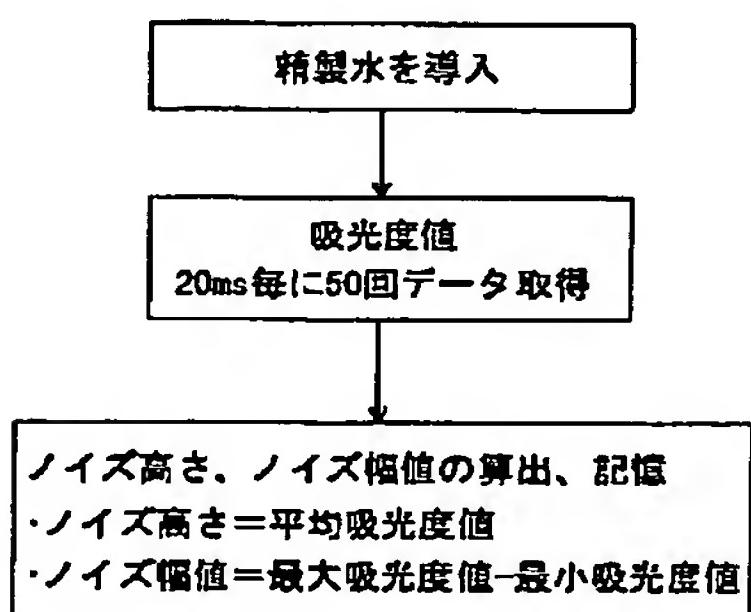
1. This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.
2. **** shows the word which can not be translated.
3. In the drawings, any words are not translated.

DRAWINGS

[Drawing 1] 図 1

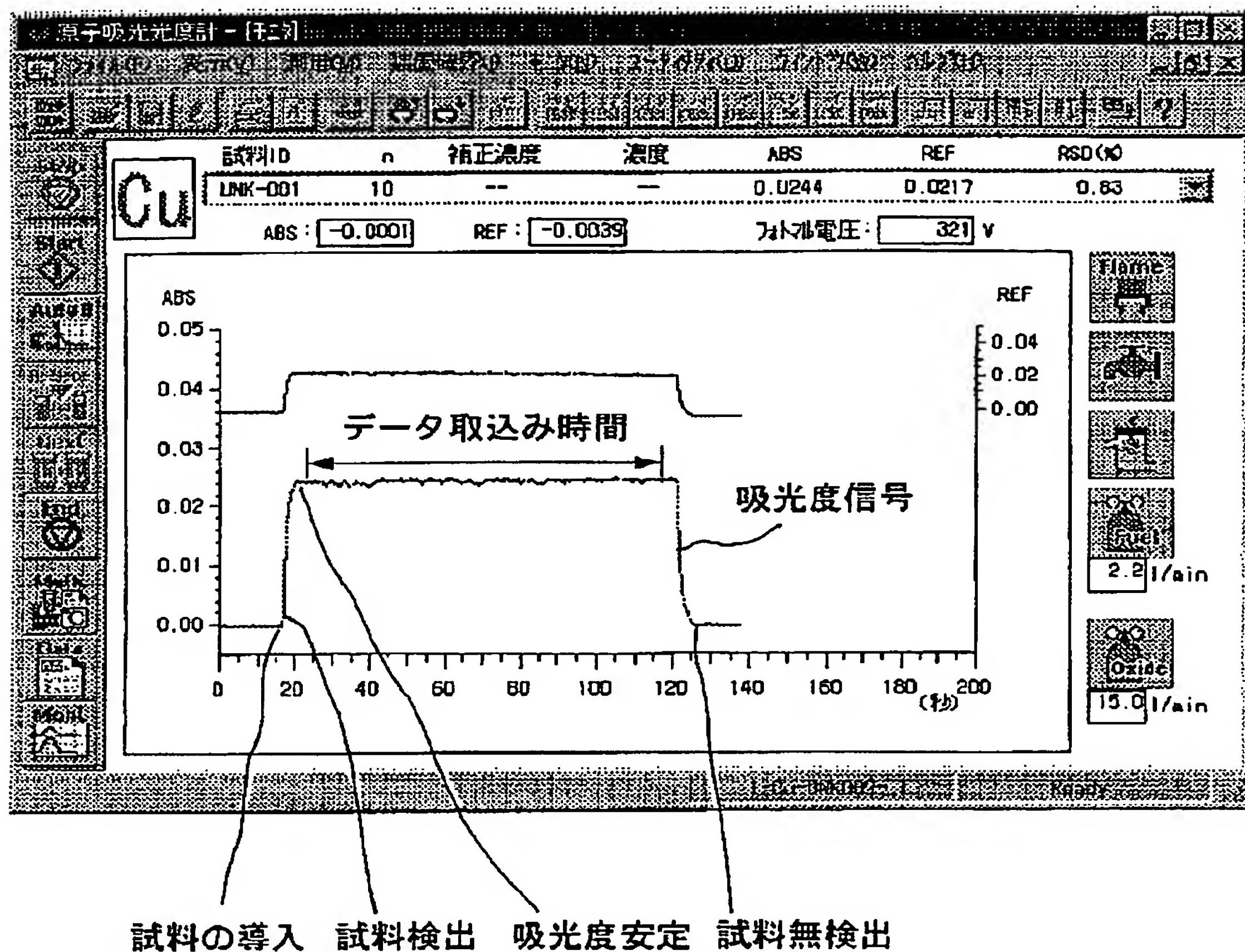


[Drawing 3] 図 3



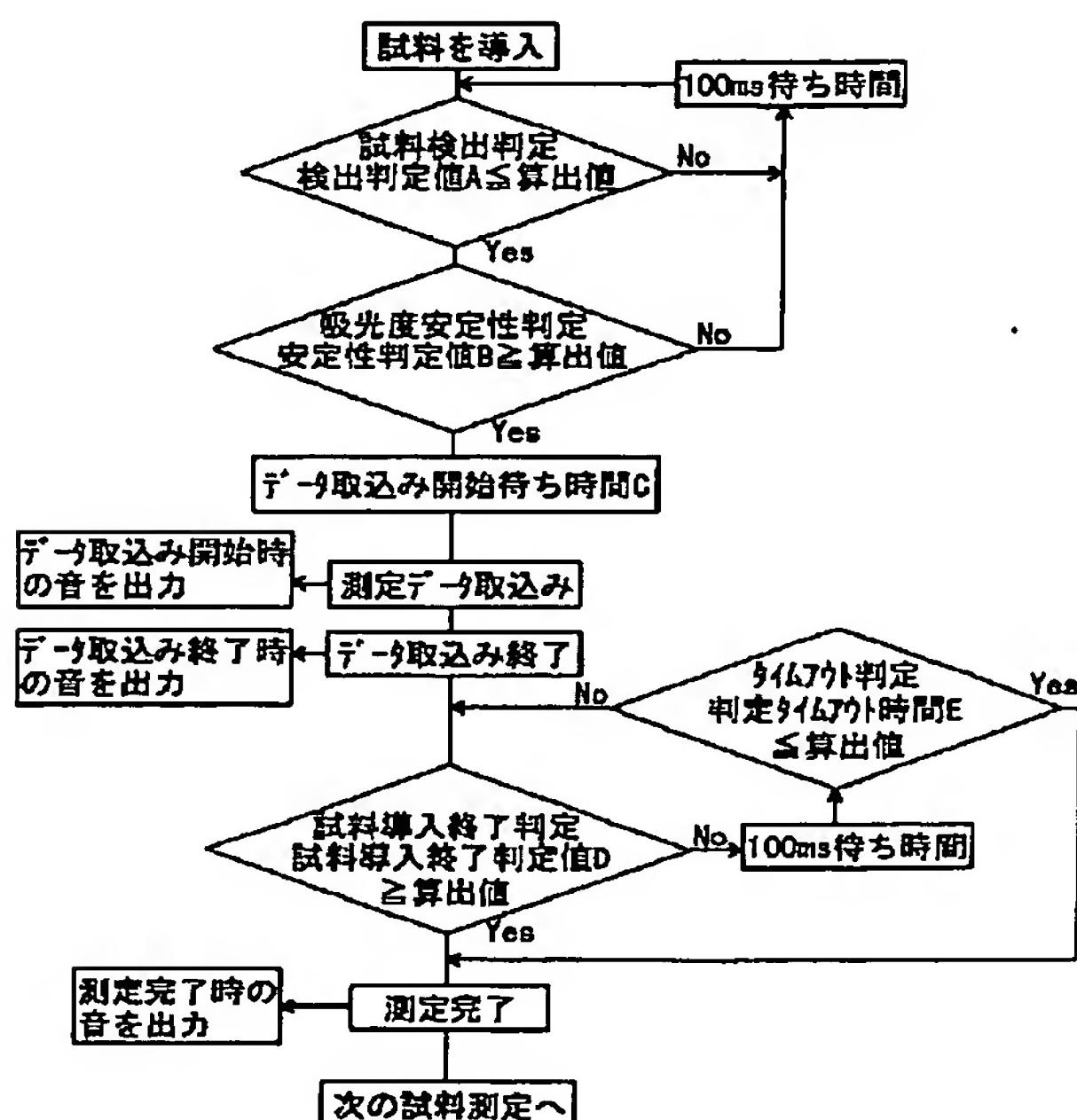
[Drawing 2]

図 2



[Drawing 4]

図 4



[Translation done.]

(19) 日本国特許庁 (JP)

(12) 公開特許公報 (A)

(11) 特許出願公開番号

特開2000-346799

(P 2 0 0 0 - 3 4 6 7 9 9 A)

(43) 公開日 平成12年12月15日 (2000.12.15)

(51) Int.CI.⁷
G01N 21/31
1/28

識別記号

F I
G01N 21/31
1/28

610
B 2G059
T

テーマコード (参考)

審査請求 未請求 請求項の数11 O.L (全8頁)

(21) 出願番号 特願平11-156038

(22) 出願日 平成11年6月3日 (1999.6.3)

(71) 出願人 000005108

株式会社日立製作所

東京都千代田区神田駿河台四丁目6番地

(71) 出願人 000233550

株式会社日立サイエンスシステムズ

茨城県ひたちなか市大字市毛1040番地

(72) 発明者 戸辺 早人

茨城県ひたちなか市大字市毛882番地 株

式会社日立製作所計測器事業部内

(74) 代理人 100075096

弁理士 作田 康夫

最終頁に続く

(54) 【発明の名称】フレーム原子吸光光度計、及びその制御方法

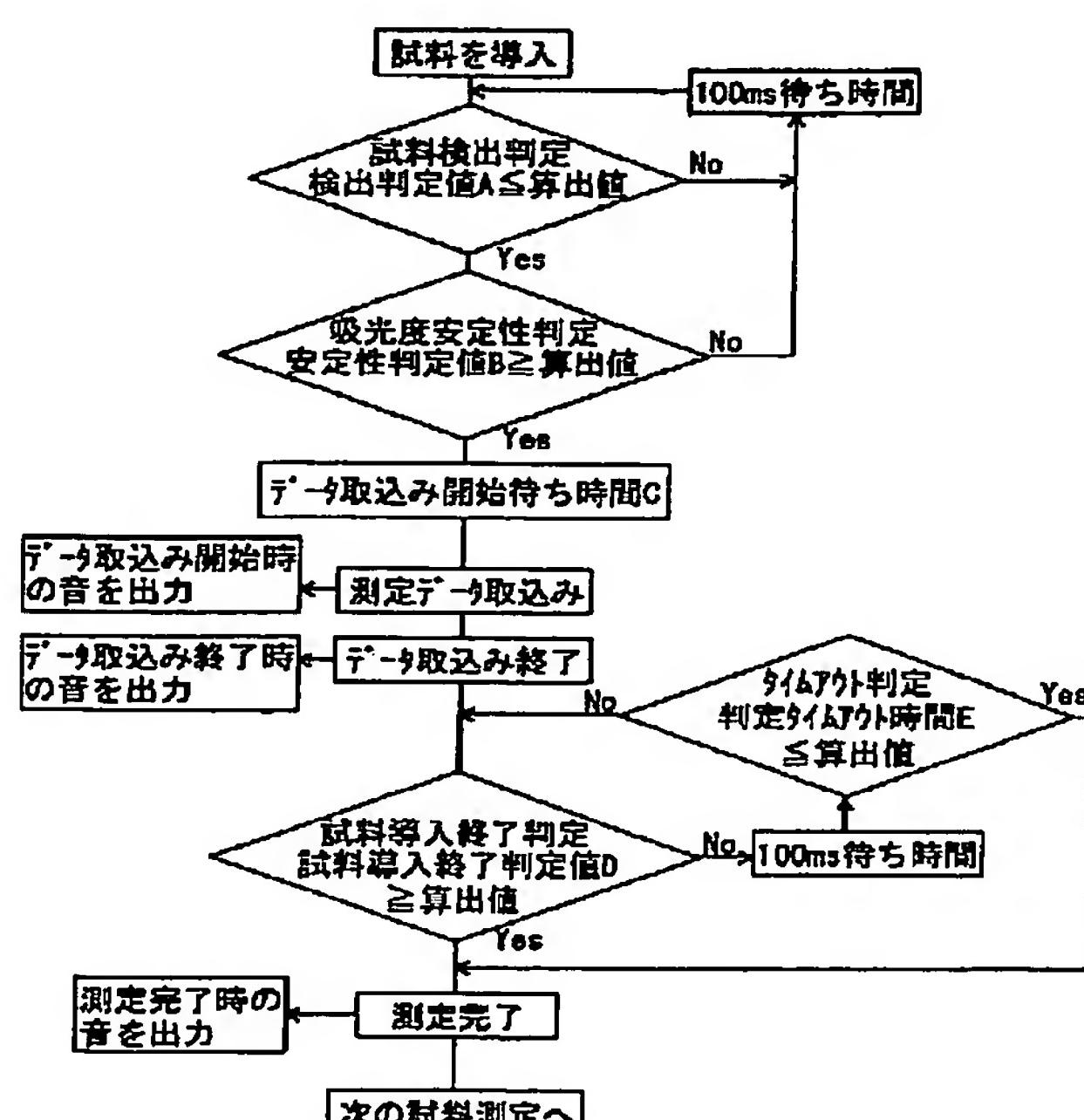
(57) 【要約】

【課題】測定開始の実行時機を吸光度の増加量及び吸光度の安定性から自動的に決定して、簡便かつ分析精度を向上することができる原子吸光光度計を提供する。

【解決手段】フレーム原子吸光光度計の制御方法において、成分が既知の試料を測定するステップ、測定試料の吸光度を算出し、当該算出した吸光度の安定度を判定を行うステップ、上記安定度の判定の結果が安定である時に測定した吸光度の記録を行うステップとを有する。

【効果】自動的に測定実行時機の最適化を行うことにより簡便かつ分析精度を向上することができる。

図 4



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項 1】測定試料を吸引し霧状態にする試料導入手段と、導入した試料を加熱し原子化を行う加熱手段と、原子化した試料に対して測定光を照射する発光手段と、上記測定光を任意の波長毎に分光する分光手段と、当該分光手段により分光された波長について光度検出を行う検出手段と、当該検出手段により検出された光度から吸光度へ変換を行う変換手段と、当該変換した吸光度の表示を行う表示手段とを有するフレーム原子吸光光度計の制御方法において、

成分が既知の試料を測定するステップ、

測定試料の吸光度を算出し、当該算出した吸光度の安定度の判定を行うステップ、

上記安定度の判定の結果が安定である時に測定した吸光度の記録を行うステップとを有することを特徴とするフレーム原子吸光光度計の制御方法。

【請求項 2】測定対象試料を吸引し霧状態にする試料導入手段と、導入した試料を加熱し原子化を行う加熱手段と、原子化した試料に対して測定光を照射する発光手段と、上記測定光を任意の波長毎に分光する分光手段と、当該分光手段により分光された波長について光度検出を行う検出手段と、当該検出手段により検出された光度から吸光度へ変換を行う変換手段と、当該変換した吸光度の表示を行う表示手段とを有するフレーム原子吸光光度計の制御方法において、

上記変換手段によって得られる吸光度を予め設定された第1の値と比較し、前記測定対象試料の測定が開始されたことを検出する第1のステップ、

任意の期間に得られた吸光度の値を基に、予め設定された第2の値との比較を行うことにより、吸光度の安定性を判定する第2のステップ、

上記吸光度の安定性が確認されたとき、吸光度の記録を開始する第3のステップ、

所定の時間経過後、吸光度の記録を終了する第4のステップとを有することを特徴とするフレーム原子吸光光度計の制御方法。

【請求項 3】前記請求項 2において、

吸光度の記録開始時、及び吸光度の記録終了時に、音を発することを特徴とするフレーム原子吸光光度計の制御方法。

【請求項 4】前記請求項 2において、

前記第2のステップにおいて、任意の期間中の最大吸光度に応じて、前記第2の値が変更されることを特徴とするフレーム原子吸光光度計の制御方法。

【請求項 5】前記請求項 2において、

前記第4のステップの後に、測定された吸光度を基に、予め設定された第3の値との比較を行うことにより、前記測定対象試料の導入が終了したことを判定する第5のステップとを有することを特徴とするフレーム原子吸光光度計の制御方法。

10

分光手段により分光された波長について光度検出を行う検出手段と、当該検出手段により検出された光度から吸光度へ変換を行う演算手段と、当該変換した吸光度の表示を行う表示手段とを有するフレーム原子吸光光度計において、

上記演算手段中に、予め設定された検出判定値と上記吸光度とを比較する第1の判定手段と、予め設定された安定性判定値を基に任意の期間の吸光度について安定性を判定する第2の判定手段とを備え、

測定結果のデータ取り込み開始の時機を上記第2の比較判定手段の判定結果に応じて決定することを特徴とするフレーム原子吸光光度計。

【請求項 8】測定試料を吸引し霧状態にする試料導入手段と、導入した試料を加熱し原子化を行う加熱手段と、原子化した試料に対して測定光を照射する発光手段と、上記測定光を任意の波長毎に分光する分光手段と、当該分光手段により分光された波長について光度検出を行う検出手段と、当該検出手段により検出された光度から吸光度へ変換を行う演算手段と、当該変換した吸光度の表示を行う表示手段とを有するフレーム原子吸光光度計において、

上記演算手段内に、予め設定された検出判定値と上記吸光度とを比較する第1の判定手段と、予め設定された安定性判定値を基に任意の期間の吸光度について安定性を判定する第2の判定手段と、予め設定された測定期間と吸光度のデータ取り込み時間を比較する第3の判定手段を備え、

試料の測定結果のデータ取り込み開始の時機及びデータ取り込み終了の時機を上記第2及び第3の判定手段の判定結果に応じて決定することを特徴とするフレーム原子吸光光度計。

【請求項 9】前記請求項 8において、

データ取り込み開始及びデータ取り込み終了時に音を出力する音源を備えたことを特徴とするフレーム原子吸光光度計。

【請求項 10】前記請求項 9において、

前記演算手段内に、予め設定された試料導入終了判定値と前記吸光度とを比較する第4の判定手段を備え、測定終了との判断されると前記音源より音を発することを特徴とするフレーム原子吸光光度計。

50

【請求項 11】前記請求項 10において、

前記演算手段内に、予め設定されたタイムアウト時間とデータ取り込み開始からの経過時間とを比較する第5の判定手段を備え、当該経過時間が前記タイムアウト時間を超えたときに、前記測定試料の吸引を停止することを特徴とするフレーム原子吸光光度計。

【発明の詳細な説明】

【0001】

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は、試料を加熱し原子化させ、その原子を吸光分析することにより金属元素の分析を行う原子吸光光度計に関する。

10

【0002】

【従来の技術】バーナを有するフレーム原子吸光光度計の主な構造を図1に示す。フレーム原子吸光光度計において、分析を行う際は、まず分析者が試料容器に入れた試料1を試料導入管2まで移動させ試料1を吸引させる。試料1は、試料導入管2から連続的に吸引され(約5ml/min)、吸引された試料1は、噴霧器3により霧状態となりチャンバ4内で可燃性ガス及び助燃ガスと混合され、バーナ5に導入される。導入された霧状態の試料1は、バーナ5により加熱されフレーム6中で原子化される。原子化された試料1の原子蒸気に光源7からの測定光を照射し、原子蒸気により吸収された測定光は分光器8に入り、測定する波長の光のみが検知器9に導かれる。検知器9では、光の強度を電気信号に変換してAD変換器14に出力する。AD変換器14は、検知器9から得た電気信号をデジタル信号として中央処理装置10に出力する。中央処理装置10では、デジタル信号から吸光度を算出する。算出された吸光度は、操作部11に出力され表示部12に表示される。

20

【0003】フレーム原子吸光光度計においては、上記のように吸引された試料の測定が行われるが、測定結果を記憶部(図示せず)に記憶する際には、測定結果全てを記憶させるのではなく、測定結果として適したところのみを記憶するようにする。従って分析者が、操作部11にてデータ取得開始の実行を行う操作ボタンを操作することにより、記憶部へのデータの書き込みが開始される。データ取得は、予め設定された時間行い、この時間が経過後にデータ取得完了となる。データ取得が完了すると分析者は試料容器を試料導入管2から外して、次に測定する試料容器に入れた試料を試料導入管2まで移動して吸引させる。

30

【0004】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】しかし、試料1を導入してから吸光度の信号が得られるまでの時間(即ち、試料1が、試料導入管2、噴霧器3、チャンバ4、バーナ5を通して原子化に至るまでの時間)と、吸引された試料が安定して吸引されるように成り、それに応じて吸光度が安定するようになるまでの時間が、2秒～5秒要するため、分析者は、表示部12に表示された吸光度が安定するのを確認してから、データ取得開始の実行を行

40

うか、又は、予め待ち時間を設けてデータ取得を開始するようなことが行われていた。

【0005】上記分析者が行うデータ取得開始の実行時機は、測定試料毎に吸光度表示を確認しながら最適と思われる時機を判断していたので、時間がかかる上に個人差により必ずしも最適な時機でデータ取得を開始できないことが問題であった。

【0006】さらに、分析者は試料を吸引させるために片方の手で試料容器を保持しながら、吸光度表示を確認し、かつもう一方の手で操作部上のデータ取得開始操作を行っていたので、測定操作に余裕がないという問題があった。

【0007】本発明の目的は、上記測定開始の実行時機を吸光度の増加量及び吸光度の安定性から自動的に決定して、簡便かつ分析精度を向上することができる原子吸光光度計を提供することにある。

【0008】

【課題を解決するための手段】上記目的を達成するための本発明の特徴は、測定試料を吸引し霧状態にする試料導入手段と、導入した試料を加熱し原子化を行う加熱手段と、原子化した試料に対して測定光を照射する発光手段と、上記測定光を任意の波長毎に分光する分光手段と、当該分光手段により分光された波長について光度検出を行う検出手段と、当該検出手段により検出された光度から吸光度へ変換を行う変換手段と、当該変換した吸光度の表示を行う表示手段とを有するフレーム原子吸光光度計の制御方法において、成分が既知の試料を測定するステップ、測定試料の吸光度を算出し、当該算出した吸光度の安定度の判定を行うステップ、上記安定度の判定の結果が安定である時に測定した吸光度の記録を行うステップとを有することである。

【0009】また、測定試料を吸引し霧状態にする試料導入手段と、導入した試料を加熱し原子化を行う加熱手段と、原子化した試料に対して測定光を照射する発光手段と、上記測定光を任意の波長毎に分光する分光手段と、当該分光手段により分光された波長について光度検出を行う検出手段と、当該検出手段により検出された光度から吸光度へ変換を行う変換手段と、当該変換した吸光度の表示を行う表示手段とを有するフレーム原子吸光光度計の制御方法において、上記変換手段によって得られる吸光度を予め設定された第1の値と比較し、試料導入を検出する第1のステップ、任意の期間の吸光度の値を用いて、予め設定された第2の値と比較することにより、吸光度の安定性を判定する第2のステップ、上記吸光度の安定性が確認されたとき、吸光度の記録を開始する第3のステップ、所定の時間経過後、吸光度の記録を終了する第4のステップとを有することである。

【0010】また更には、測定試料を吸引し霧状態にする試料導入手段と、導入した試料を加熱し原子化を行う加熱手段と、原子化した試料に対して測定光を照射する

50

発光手段と、上記測定光を任意の波長毎に分光する分光手段と、当該分光手段により分光された波長について光度検出を行う検出手段と、当該検出手段により検出された光度から吸光度へ変換を行う演算手段と、当該変換した吸光度の表示を行う表示手段とを有するフレーム原子吸光光度計において、上記演算手段内に、予め設定された検出判定値と上記吸光度とを比較する第1の判定手段と、予め設定された安定性判定値を基に任意の期間の吸光度について安定性を判定する第2の判定手段と、予め設定された測定期間と吸光度のデータ取り込み時間を比較する第3の判定手段を備え、試料の測定結果のデータ取り込み開始の時機及びデータ取り込み終了の時機を上記第2及び第3の判定手段の判定結果に応じて決定することである。

【0011】本発明では上記手段により、試料の検出を行い、かつ吸光度値の安定性を判定してから測定開始の実行時機を自動的に決定するので、実行時機を最適にすることができる。これにより簡便かつ分析精度を向上することが可能となる。

【0012】

【発明の実施の形態】以下、本発明の実施形態について、図面を用いて説明する。

【0013】本発明におけるフレーム原子吸光光度計の主な構成は、前述した図1と変わらない。即ち、分析者が試料容器に入れた試料1を試料導入管2まで移動して試料1を連続的に吸引させ、吸引された試料1は噴霧器3により霧状態となり、チャンバ4内で可燃性ガスと助燃ガスとで混合されバーナ5に導入される。導入された霧状態の試料1はバーナ5により加熱してフレーム6中で原子化される。原子化された試料1の原子蒸気に光源7からの測定光を照射し、原子蒸気により吸収された測定光は分光器8に入り、測定する波長の光のみが検知器9に導かれる。検知器8では、光の強度を電気信号に変換してA/D変換器14に出力し、A/D変換器14は電気信号をデジタル信号として中央処理装置10に出力

し、中央処理装置10ではデジタル信号から吸光度を算出して操作部11に出力され、表示部12に表示され、連続的に監視される。音源13は中央処理装置10の命令により音を出力させて分析者に測定状況を伝える。

【0014】測定を開始する際は、最初に、基準となる試料、例えば精製水を測定して、プランクデータを得て、必要なパラメータを算出する必要がある。精製水の測定において、中央処理装置10は、測定結果から、平均の吸光度値【ノイズ高さ値】と、最大吸光度値から最小吸光度値を減じた吸光度値【ノイズ幅値】をプランクデータとして算出し記憶する。

【0015】図3にこの時の具体的な測定例のフローチャートを示す。まず、20ms毎に連続して吸光度値を50データ取り、このデータの平均値をノイズ高さ値、及び、最大吸光度値から最小吸光度値を減じた吸光度値をノイズ幅値として記憶する。次に、測定対象の試料の測定動作に移る。

【0016】試料1を測定する際には、まず、試料1を試料導入管2から導入する。

【0017】このとき、試料1は導入してから試料導入管2、噴霧器3、チャンバ3、バーナ5を通過して原子化に至るまでの時間と、噴霧器3への試料導入流量が安定するまでに時間を要するため、吸光度が試料を導入してから徐々に増加していき、しばらく後に所定の吸光度前後で安定状態になるという傾向を有する。図2に試料1を測定した結果について示す。ちなみに、図2は、表示部12に表示された画面である。

【0018】従って、本発明においては、中央処理装置10がこの時の吸光度を連続的に監視して、図4に示すような判定処理を行う。尚、図4に示す判定処理には複数の判定値が用いられるが、各判定値は分析者が予め設定しておくものである。表1に、判定値の初期設定値と判定設定範囲の一例を示す。

【0019】

【表1】

表 1

記号	判 定 値 項 目	初期設定値	設 定 可 能 範 囲
A	検出判定値	0.003abs	0.0001 - 4.0abs
B 1	安定性判定値 (0.5abs ≤ 吸光度)の場合に適用	5%	0.1 - 50%
B 2	安定性判定値 (0.1abs ≤ 吸光度 < 0.5abs)の場合に適用	10%	0.1 - 50%
B 3	安定性判定値 (0.01abs ≤ 吸光度 < 0.1abs)の場合に適用	20%	0.1 - 50%
B 4	安定性判定値 (吸光度 < 0.01abs)の場合に適用	40%	0.1 - 100%
C 1	データ取り込み開始待ち時間 (0.01abs ≤ 吸光度)の場合に適用	2秒	0 - 100秒
C 2	データ取り込み開始待ち時間 (吸光度 < 0.01abs)の場合に適用	3秒	0 - 100秒
D	試料導入終了判定値	0.002abs	0.0001 - 4.0abs
E	測定タイムアウト時間	20秒	0 - 100秒

【0020】以下、図4の判定処理の動作について説明する。

【0021】まず、試料を導入後、試料検出の判定を行うために、検出吸光度値を算出する。検出吸光度値は、検知器9によって検出された現在の吸光度値から前述の精製水を測定したときに得られたノイズ高さ値を減じた値(=[現在の吸光度値] - [ノイズ高さ値])である。そして、算出した検出吸光度値を表1に示す「検出判定値A」と比較する。検出吸光度値がA未満であれば、まだ試料の検出は行われていないと判断して100ms待機し、再度同様の処理を行う。検出吸光度値 ≥ Aの場合には、次の吸光度安定性判定処理に進む。尚、検出判定値Aの値の設定を変更することによって、検出感度を自由に調整することができる。

【0022】吸光度安定性判定処理においては、吸光度安定性の判定を行うために任意の期間(ここでは例えば120msとする)の吸光度検出結果を基に、{[120ms間における最大吸光度値] - [120ms間における最小吸光度値] - [ノイズ幅値]} / [120ms間における最大吸光度値] × 100の算出式を実行する。そして、この算出結果と「安定性判定値B」とを比較する。

【0023】ここで、比較すべき安定性判定値Bは、上

記120ms間における最大吸光度値の大きさによって変

30 更する。即ち、0.5abs ≤ 最大吸光度の場合には“吸光度安定性 ≤ B 1”的判定、0.1abs ≤ 最大吸光度 < 0.5absの場合には“吸光度安定性 ≤ B 2”的判定、0.01abs ≤ 最大吸光度 < 0.1absの場合には“吸光度安定性 ≤ B 3”的判定、最大吸光度 < 0.01absの場合には“吸光度安定性 ≤ B 4”的判定が行われる。通常、判定値Bの初期設定値においては、最大吸光度が高いほど低い値に設定されており、厳密な安定性の評価を行うようになっている。ここで判定を満たせない場合には、100ms待機し最初の処理に戻る。条件を満足した時には、測定の開始待ち時間処理に進む。

【0024】測定開始待ち時間は、微少な吸光度増加に対応するために安定時間として追加する時間であり、最大吸光度値の大きさによって変更する。0.01abs ≤ 最大吸光度の場合には、測定開始待ち時間をC1、最大吸光度 < 0.01absの場合には測定開始待ち時間をC2として、待ち時間経過後、データ取り込みの開始を自動的に実行する。

【0025】またこの実行と同期して、音源13より音を出力し分析者に開始時機を知らせるようにする。データ取り込み時間は分析者が予め設定している取り込み時

間に従い、取り込み時間経過後直ちに測定データの取り込みを終了する。またこの終了と同期して音源 13 より音を出力し分析者に終了時機を知らせるようにする。この時、分析者は試料 1 の導入を止める。つまり、試料導入間 2 から試料容器を離す。

【0026】引き続き、試料導入終了判定処理を行う。試料導入終了判定処理では、試料の導入が終了したことの判定を行うために、無検出吸光度値 (= [現在の吸光度値] - [ノイズ高さ値]) を算出して試料導入終了判定値 D と比較する。算出した無検出吸光度値が D 以上であれば、まだ試料が供給されているものと判断して任意の時間 (例えば 100ms) 待機後、タイムアウト判定処理に移る。無検出吸光度値 $\geq D$ の場合には、測定の完了を自動的に実行し、次の測定試料の準備状態とするようする。またこの実行と同期して音源 13 より音を出力し分析者に完了時機を知らせるようにする。

【0027】タイムアウト判定処理では、データ取り込み開始からの経過時間を算出値として測定タイムアウト時間 E と比較する。測定タイムアウト時間 E は、機器を保護するため、また次の測定に迅速に移行するために設定される値である。経過時間が測定タイムアウト時間 E 未満である場合には、試料導入終了判定処理に戻る。通常、分析者が設定するデータ取り込み時間は、測定タイムアウト時間 E よりも短い時間で設定されるため、この判定ステップにおいては、このまま測定完了ステップに移ることがほとんどである。しかし、データ取り込みが終了しているにも関わらず、分析者のミスから試料 1 の導入を止めない場合には、測定される吸光度が下がらず試料導入終了判定処理がいつまでも終了せず、次の測定へ移れないことに成る。従って、データ取り込み開始からの経過時間 $\geq E$ となった場合には、試料の吸引を強制

10

的に終了し (具体的には、吸引のためのポンプを停止する。) 、測定完了とし、同時に音源 13 より音を出力し分析者に完了時機を知らせるようにする。その後、次の測定試料の準備状態とするようする。

【0028】

【発明の効果】本発明により、測定開始の実行時機を最適化できるので、吸光度が安定状態になった時点で自動的にデータ取り込みを開始できるため、分析者の熟練度によらず分析精度が向上する。また無駄な待ち時間がなくなるので、分析時間の短縮と分析に使用する試料の消費量を節約できる。さらに、音で分析状況が伝達されるので表示を確認する必要がなく、かつ試料導入中に測定開始の操作をする必要がないので、片方の手が測定のために拘束されず楽に測定ができるフレーム原子吸光度計を提供することができる。

【0029】また、測定終了時においても、一定時間経過すると強制的に試料の吸引が停止するため、必要以上に多くの試料を消費することを防止できる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図 1】フレーム原子吸光度計の概念図である。

【図 2】試料の導入から測定完了までの吸光度変化をリアルタイムで表示しているモニター画面の一例である。

【図 3】本発明によるブランクデータ取得のフローチャートである。

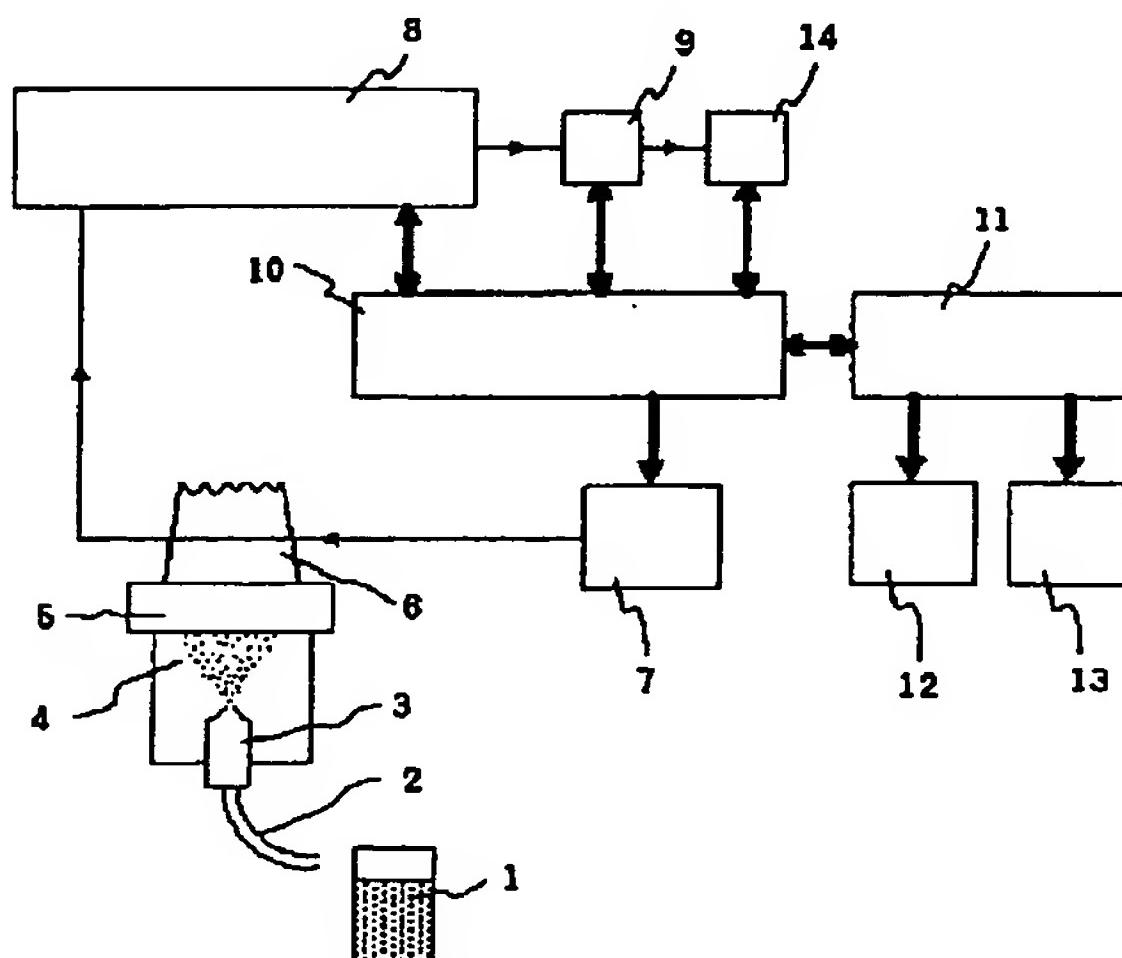
【図 4】本発明による自動測定の判定処理フローチャートである。

【符号の説明】

1…試料、2…試料導入管、3…噴霧器、4…チャンバ、5…バーナ、6…フレーム、7…光源、8…分光器、9…検知器、10…中央処理装置、11…操作部、12…表示部、13…音源、14…A/D変換器。

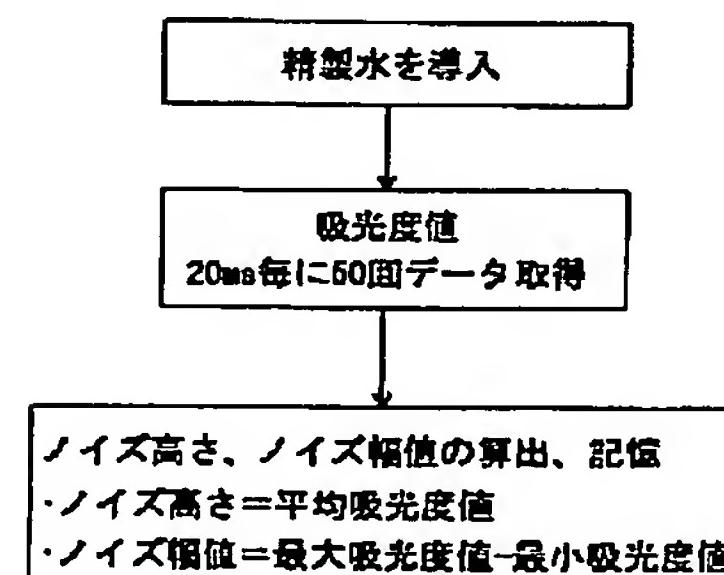
【図 1】

図 1



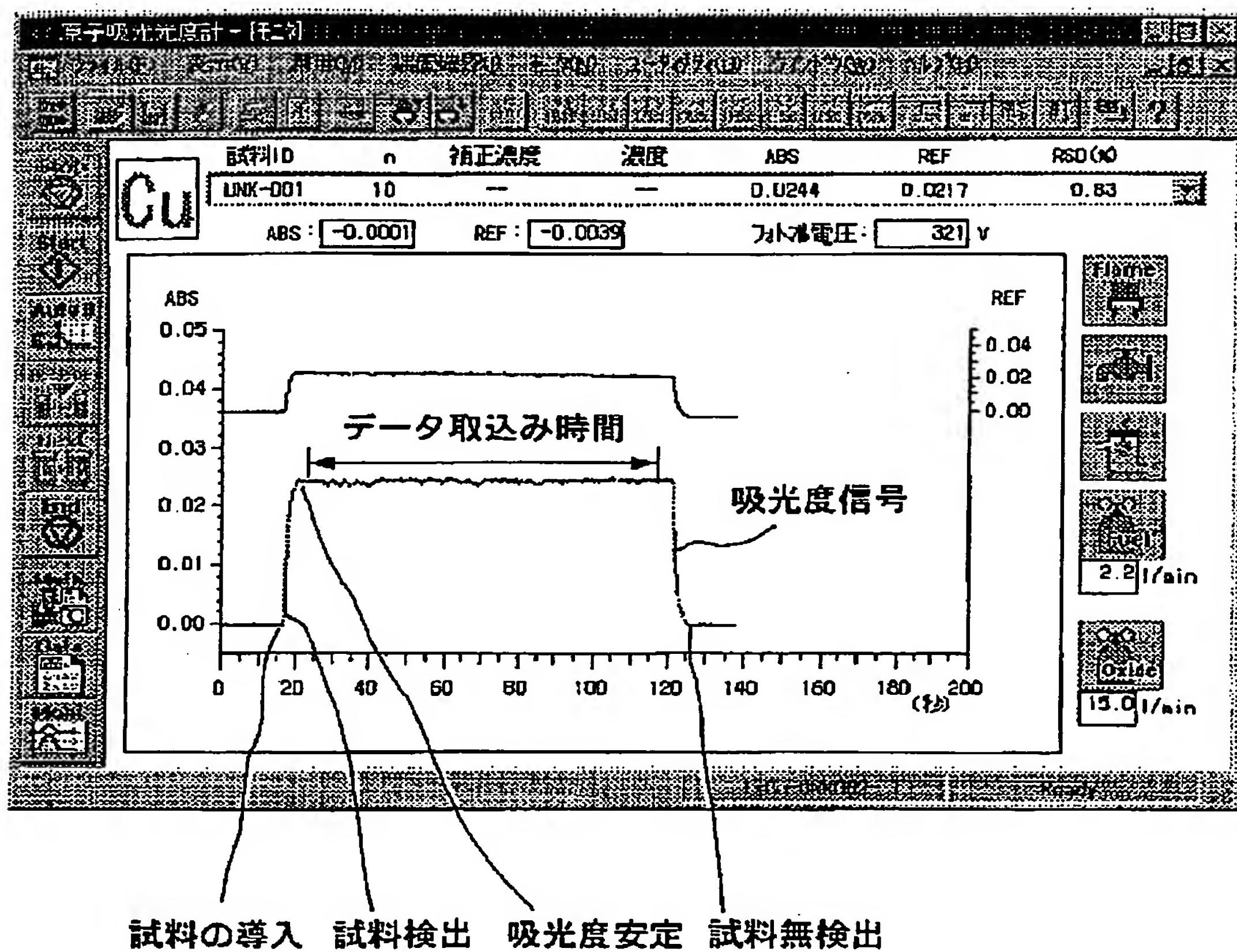
【図 3】

図 3



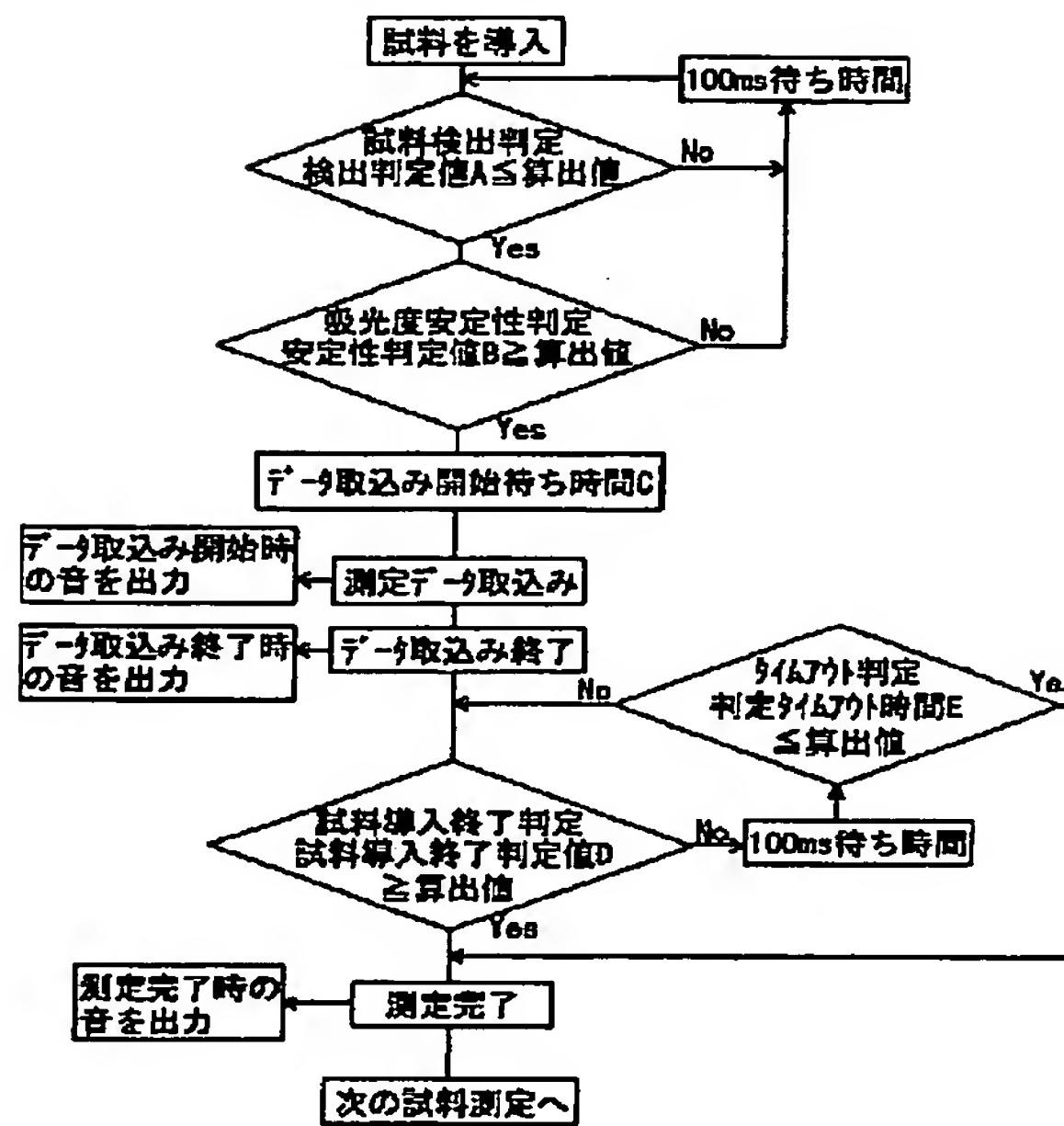
【図2】

図 2



【図4】

図 4



フロントページの続き

(72)発明者 照井 康

茨城県ひたちなか市大字市毛882番地 株
式会社日立製作所計測器事業部内

(72)発明者 齊藤 隆浩

茨城県ひたちなか市大字市毛1040番地 株
式会社日立サイエンスシステムズ内

F ターム(参考) 2G059 AA01 DD01 DD15 EE01 JJ01

MM01 MM04 MM05 MM09 MM10
PP01 PP04

**This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning
Operations and is not part of the Official Record**

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

- BLACK BORDERS**
- IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES**
- FADED TEXT OR DRAWING**
- BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING**
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES**
- COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS**
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS**
- LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT**
- REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY**
- OTHER:** _____

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.